REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 11, 12, 13, 15 and 25 are currently being amended.

Claims 28-34 are currently being added.

This amendment adds and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2-6, 8-13 and 15-34 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections:

In the Office Action, claim 25 was objected to, because it was listed as "Currently Amended" in the previously-filed response, when in fact it was not amended. Claim 25 is being amended in the manner that it should have been in the previously-filed response, and Applicant apologizes for this error in the previously-filed response.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, claims 2, 4, 5, 8-13 and 15-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,882,348 to Hirono in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,734,873 to Herf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,948,131 to Neven; and claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirono in view of Herf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,373 to Delorme. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 2 recites, among other things:

user position display means for adding a user position mark showing the user to the viewpoint position of the user in said three-dimensional image stereoscopic representation provided to said user, fetching from data stored in said user data storage means the viewpoint positions of said other users and said user IDs up to said threshold value defined by said other users maximum display threshold value in the order close to the viewpoint position of said user, and adding other users position marks showing said other users to said viewpoint positions; and

interaction connection means for regarding, as persons to interact with, the user IDs of said other users corresponding to given specified other users position marks when said user specifies said given other users position marks and starting an interacting function program to provide connection.

By way of the above-recited features, a user on the Internet can interact with other users corresponding to given specified other users position marks when the user specifies the given other users position marks and starts an interacting function program to provide connection to those other users.

In its rejection of claim 2, the Office Action asserts that the above features recited in claim 2 are old and well known, as taught by Neven. In more detail, the Office Action asserts that it is old and well known in the communication art to allow users to communicate in real time with other users that are online. Applicant strongly disagrees with this assertion made in the Office Action, with respect to how this assertion is applied with respect to the presently pending claims.

Namely, Neven merely discloses that "A button in the directory allows the user to toggle between all members at a location and live members at a location. A user may directly contact a live member in the directory." See column 7, lines 60-63 of Neven. In this context, the term "a location" and "the directory" in Neven have the meanings that:

"A directory 42 associated with the rich media communication system is shown in FIGS. 14 and 15. The directory includes an online directory 204 associated with a hierarchical organization, a white page directory 206, and a yellow page directory 208. the user at their location are listed by their user ID or nickname . . . (column 7, lines 51-58 of Neven).

Thus, as clear from the above portion of Neven, this reference may teach that it is old and well known in the communication art to allow users to communicate in real time with other users that are online. However, to accomplish this, Neven requires "**the directory**" that "**includes an online directory** 204 **associated with a hierarchical organization, a while page directory** 206, **and a yellow page directory** 208."

In stark contrast to this, claim 2 recites "*interaction connection means for regarding, as persons to interact with, the user IDs of said other users corresponding to given **specified other users position marks** when said user specifies said given other users position marks and starting an interacting function program to provide connection*". (emphasis added)

Also, "other user position marks" is described in the element of "user position display means" of claim 2, "*for adding a user position mark showing the user to the viewpoint position of the user in said three-dimensional image stereoscopic representation provided to said user, fetching from data stored in said user data storage means the viewpoint positions of said other users and said user IDs up to said threshold value defined by said other users maximum display threshold value in the order close to the viewpoint position of said user, and adding other users position marks showing said other users to said viewpoint positions*". (emphasis added).

Even though Neven discloses that it is old and well known in the communication art to allow users to communicate in real time with other users that are online, it was not obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to come up with a system recited in claim 2, because none of Hirono, Herf and Delorme teaches or suggests a directory that includes an online directory associated with a hierarchical organization, a white page directory, and a yellow page directory. Furthermore, none of Hirono, Herf, Delorme and Neven teaches or suggests "interaction connection means for regarding, as persons to interact with, the user IDs of said other users **corresponding to given specifies other users position marks . . .**".

The present invention according to claim 2 allows a user to view other persons other than the user sightseeing in a three-dimensional image stereoscopic representation. The user can recognize what sort of people are searching and in what place they are searching, to provide enjoyment for the user in his/her searching operation. Furthermore, the server recited in claim 2 allows the user to connect to and interact with others displayed in the three-dimensional image stereoscopic representation. The user can make a tour of a famous tourist

site with persons viewing the same location and can get to know them by way of the present invention. For example, when a person visits The Leonardo da Vinci Museum in Vinci, Italy, and another person appears, the person can predict confidently that the other person also likes Leonardo da Vinci. The present invention provides a connection between the user and the other person for interaction, whereby friendships can be made. See page 50, lines 3-19 of the specification, for example.

Therefore, each of the presently pending independent claims, which recite similar features to those discussed above with respect to claim 2, are not taught or suggested by the other cited art of record.

Still further, in its rejection of claim 9, the Office Action asserts that the claimed "user stay landmark storage means", the claimed "all movement history storing means", the claimed "stay time threshold value storage means", the claimed "range inside and outside judgment distance storage means", and the claimed "stay time calculation means" are taught or suggested by Figure 12 of Hirono. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Namely, Figure 12 of Hirono merely shows an example of a map home page 42 on which a map image 44 of information of facilities is displayed, whereby such information can be registered on a point registration screen 64 shown in Figure 10 of Hirono, and whereby the registered information is stored in a location search database 11. Clearly, there is no teaching or suggestion of providing movement history of a user or a stay time threshold value or a range inside and outside judgment distance or a stay time calculation that uses positional information of a landmark and movement history of a user in Figure 12 of Hirono and in the description of that figure in column 11, lines 55-61 of Hirono.

Accordingly, independent claim 9 is patentable over the cited art of record for these additional reasons.

New Claims:

New claims 28-34 have been added to recite that web page subject matter information is used to determine which users are viewing similar content, whereby that similar content may be on totally separate web pages.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the final Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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